

REVIEW

Pteridophytes of Upper Katanga (Democratic Republic of Congo), by Jan Kornaś, Anna Medwecka-Kornaś, Francois Malaisse and Malgorzata Matjaskiewicz. 2000. Botanical Papers 35, Institute of Botany Jagiellonian University, Kracow, Poland.

This fairly standard pteridophyte flora covers the Upper Katanga, which is the southeastern part of the Democratic Republic of Congo (formerly Zaire). The area is bordered by Tanzania, Zambia and Angola in central Africa. The work is the outgrowth of collections by two Belgian botanists in Katanga as identified by the Polish pteridologist Jan Kornaś, author of many articles on African ferns. The paper was completed by Anna Medwecka-Kornaś after the death of Dr. Kornaś in 1994.

The 180-page book includes a description of the area (climate, geology, soils and vegetation), a list of species by family and genus (alphabetically), distribution maps, and remarks on the pteridophyte flora. The description of vegetation types is brief but complete, with correlation to soils and climate. There are, unfortunately, no keys or descriptions for the species; however, for each species, distribution, relative abundance, herbarium citations and habit are given. Taxonomic notes are useful for some species where there are questions or problems.

The final section of the work is a brief discussion of the taxonomic composition of the Pteridophytes to adjacent regions of Africa. The flora includes 183 species in 60 genera. *Asplenium* is the largest (27 species), as expected in this part of the world, followed by *Thelypteris* (12), *Selaginella* (11), and *Pteris* and *Trichomanes* (9 each). Although some species are relatively common, more than 50 species have been found at only one or two stations. Katanga has a richer pteridophyte flora than some other adjacent regions, but not as rich as tropical East Africa. The publication of this flora is important because the destruction of forests and political unrest in the region may prevent gathering of additional information in the near future.—JAMES D. MONTGOMERY, Ecology III, Inc., 804 Salem Blvd., Berwick, PA 18603.